

membership. I was then pastor of the Fair Haven church and also secretary of the Ohio Home Mission Board, and by the consent of the Board we established a mission point within reach of the few isolated members, and after the number was increased from four to sixteen, they were organized with sixteen charter members by P. J. Brown and H. S. Jacobs, by order of the Board. The church then selected their present pastor to take charge of them. The church was then supplied with preaching every two weeks by Brown, Jacobs and Kiefer, at two dollars a trip, paid by the Mission Board until June 1, 1895, after which the church cared for itself with the present pastor in charge. Thus I have had charge of this work from its very beginning, so they have a good reason to call me father.

In the spring of 1893 we began to worship in the church we now occupy, which is a union house. Our congregations were at first very small as the few members were scattered over a large territory and could not reasonably be expected to be present every time, and as long as the congregations remained in its teens there was peace all around. But soon outsiders began to drop in, and as I heard Brother Funk say in relating the circumstances to another that when an outsider kept coming two or three times they began to count him, and as a rule it became true. But when we began to increase and were not in our teens any more, and when it actually looked as tho it would live, then it began to storm and opposition arose on every hand, but it was only the making of us. We now have a membership of 55 without counting the present addition. Of course some of these members have moved away out of reach of the church, but they still hold their membership there. Nearly all the members are young people, young families with small children. Among the late converts are six heads of young families. We have not the advantage of having a lot of Brethren children to draw from who have been brought up in the faith and who can be pushed in by simply telling them a lot of sympathetic anecdotes. But when you have to depend for your increase upon people who have been brought up in a different faith to induce such to drop their instructions and break away in some respects from father and mother and their church relationship it takes more than anecdotes to reach such. It takes solid gospel preaching backed up by good examples of the members. And besides all this we have been gathering in all the time. We have taken in ten new members in a little over a year at our regular appointments, outside of our revival meeting. Now I want it understood that all this is not to be attributed to the preaching, but because of the excellent band of workers who are backing me up, not only while the revival lasts, but the year round. When I take my place in the stand I feel as tho I had the sympathy of the church and their prayers, and when the gospel seed is sown, and it finds lodgment in some heart and begins to grow, it is watched

with great interest, and as soon as it is ripe it is gathered without waiting for any protracted meeting. We pray God to grant that it may always be so.

WM. KIEFER.

Pleasant Home, Ohio.

South Haven, Kan.

Dear readers of the EVANGELIST: Will pen a few thoughts from this place. Our little band, only twelve in number are trying to observe Paul's admonition "Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together." Meet every Sunday for Sunday-school and have preaching every alternate Sunday by our much esteemed brother and pastor, L. G. Wood. Held our communion on Saturday evening, Nov. 18, with nineteen communicants. Everything considered, had a good meeting, one which will be long remembered by all present. Just before surrounding the table, while we were singing the invitation hymn our hearts were made to rejoice at the return of a young brother to the church, and our prayer is that his estimable companion may, in the near future return to the church which stands ever ready to receive all penitent believers. Yours in hope of eternal life.

EMILY BLUE.

Maple Grove, Ind.

We feel this morning again renewed by the spirit of God for sparing us thru the night, and for the study of his word, and such a lesson as we had at our Sunday-school last Sunday, that of intemperance. May we take warning by the study of that lesson. By the time that this little article is printed if God still favors us we will be in the midst of our protracted meetings, but before we commence our meeting, brother J. O. Talley and brother J. M. Bowman and our pastor L. W. Ditch will hold a four days session of Bible conference which we trust will be the means in God's hands to more fully understand the scriptures. After this is over we will continue our revival, so you can decide for yourselves that we are not a dead body at Maple Grove. Last night we had a good prayer meeting, the presence of God was with us, it brings the thought to us like this, how good it is for Brethren to dwell together in unity. We will close by asking the Brethren at large to remember us in our Bible conference and also our protracted meeting. We trust the prayers of the people of God will ascend the hill of the Lord in our behalf.

K. E. CRUEA.

Homerville, Ohio

As per request I will say that our S. S. closed on last Sunday, not for want of attendance, but it has been the custom to close at this season of the year. In all there were 35 sessions during the season. I have nothing new to report, except that I sent Brother Keim \$50 which was paid in by our members to satisfy our appointment on Ashland College debt. Hope others will do likewise. Our prayer meeting and K. C. are still moving along, but there is room for others to

help along the good cause. Can't we get more volunteers. It will pay. Our paymaster never runs short of funds. In his discourse Nov. 19, our pastor showed us that great men, wise men, are ready to grasp at good advice even from those who know much less than they do. Also that it was not weakness in a person to change his or her mind but the very opposite. A grand lesson. Now this surely ought to apply to spiritual, temporal and practical affairs. No one ought to act in opposition to his true understanding or convictions. I hope none of us belong to the Brethren church simply because our fathers or mothers believed that way. Doing as they did, might lead us in a wrong direction. Be sure you are right, then go ahead.

D. J. MYERS.

Zion Hill Church, Ohio

This thanksgiving day as I pen these lines, my heart swells with gratitude to our heavenly Father for his loving kindness to us. For the temporal blessings as well as the spiritual that we have enjoyed thro another year. Our revival meeting closed Sunday night Nov. 26th. Our pastor, Bro. Wm. Kieffer labored faithfully for us a few weeks and the immediate results of the meeting were eight confessions, to take it all in all we had a very good meeting, the results almost greater than we had expected as we have been gathering them in right along at our regular meetings. If any one thinks the Zion Hill Church asleep they are badly mistaken, we try to be up and doing and the results are indeed encouraging.

In July Sister Detwiler visited the church at this place and organized an S. S. C. E. with myself as President, Sister Anna Klopstein Vice President, Sister Arvilla Kieffer Secretary and Sister Mary Amstutz Treasurer. We held our first meeting August 1st. Our number is not so large but those that do attend are alive to the work and our meetings have been very spiritual and good. I feel that these S. S. C. E. are a great power for good both spiritually and financially, have a tendency to bring us closer to God. I hope that every church in the brotherhood that has not already organized a Society will not hesitate to do so. Dear sisters, let us try to be in spirit what we are in name, progressive. We haven't been doing any work yet in our society but meet once each month and have a devotional meeting and each member gives as the Lord has prospered them.

Some may wonder why we haven't been doing any work, but I think if I explain why you will not think it strange. Our church is in the country and the members live rather scattered, I had fourteen miles to the first meeting we had, and when the days are short like at present it would be almost impossible for us to get together to do work of any kind. Perhaps in the future we may do better. In God we trust.

MRS. C. B. SCHLOSSNAGEL,  
Wooster, Ohio.